

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please add new Claims 21 and 22 as follows:

Please amend Claims 1, 4, 10, 14, 18, 19, and 20 as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** An exhaust header for collecting exhaust gases from an internal combustion engine, the exhaust header comprising:

a plurality of flanges, each having a recessed sealing surface that is configured to circumscribe an exhaust port on an internal combustion engine, wherein at least a portion of the recessed sealing surface is exposed to an inside of the flange;

a plurality of gaskets comprising graphite, each located in the recessed sealing surface and configured to form separate seals between each flange and the engine around the exhaust port;

a plurality of head pipes in flow communication with the plurality of flanges and configured to route exhaust gases from the plurality of flanges; and

a collector having a plurality of inlet ports connected to the plurality of head pipes.

2. **(Original)** The exhaust header of Claim 1, wherein the flange comprises two bolt holes.

3. **(Original)** The exhaust header of Claim 2, wherein one of the two bolt holes is open to an edge of the flange.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The exhaust header of Claim 1, wherein the flange comprises a chamfered inside surface so as to provide a transition between an inner surface of the flange and an inside diameter of the head pipe.

5. **(Original)** The exhaust header of Claim 1, wherein a depth of the recessed sealing surface is approximately 0.1 inches.

6. **(Original)** The exhaust header of Claim 1, wherein the recessed sealing surface has a substantially circular shape.

7. **(Original)** The exhaust header of Claim 1, wherein the recessed sealing surface has a substantially rectangular shape.

8. **(Original)** The exhaust header of Claim 7, wherein the graphite gasket comprises metal reinforcement.

9. **(Original)** The exhaust header of Claim 1, wherein the graphite gasket has a melting temperature of at least 2000 degrees Fahrenheit.

10. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus configured to attach an exhaust pipe to an engine head to form an exhaust header for collecting exhaust gases from one or more exhaust ports from a cylinder of an internal combustion engine, the apparatus comprising:

a flange having a passageway extending therethrough, said flange further comprising:

~~a mating surface configured for attachment to a surface of the internal combustion engine;~~

a recessed seal surface recessed below the mating surface having at least a portion of the seal surface exposed to an inside of the flange, wherein the mating surface and the seal surface is are configured to circumscribe a single exhaust port, and wherein the mating surface circumscribes the seal surface; and

a graphite gasket located on the seal surface and configured to form a seal between the surface of the internal combustion engine and the flange.

11. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the flange is made of metal.

12. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein the metal is iron.

13. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the flange comprises two bolt holes.

14. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the seal surface is recessed ~~below the mating surface~~ approximately 0.1 inches.

15. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the seal surface has a substantially annular shape.

16. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the seal surface has a substantially rectangular shape.

17. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein a cross-sectional area of the passageway varies.

18. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the cross-sectional area increases.

19. **(Currently Amended)** A method for installing an exhaust header to a substantially flat surface of a multi-cylinder engine, the exhaust header having a plurality of

exhaust pipes, each exhaust pipe being configured to collect exhaust gas from a cylinder of the multi-cylinder engine, the method comprising:

providing an exhaust header having a plurality of flanges, each flange having a ~~mating surface and a~~ recessed sealing surface, ~~the sealing surface being recessed below the mating surface~~ at least a portion of the sealing surface being exposed to an inside of the flange, wherein the ~~mating surface and the~~ sealing surface circumscribes ~~circumscribe~~ an exhaust port from the cylinder;

placing a graphite gasket against each sealing surface in the plurality of flanges;

abutting each graphite gasket against a substantially flat surface of the multi-cylinder engine; and

individually compressing each graphite gasket against the substantially flat surface of the multi-cylinder engine so as to form a plurality of separate seals between the plurality of flanges and the substantially flat surface.

20. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 19, wherein the graphite gasket protrudes beyond an outer ~~above the~~ mating surface of the flange.

21. **(New)** An apparatus configured to attach an exhaust pipe to an engine head to form an exhaust header for collecting exhaust gases from one or more exhaust ports from a cylinder of an internal combustion engine, the apparatus comprising:

a flange having a passageway extending therethrough, said flange further comprising bolt holes for directly connecting the flange to the internal combustion engine, and a recessed seal surface configured to circumscribe a single exhaust port; and

a graphite gasket configured to be positioned against the seal surface and form a seal between the internal combustion engine and the flange.

22. **(New)** A method for installing an exhaust header to a substantially flat surface of a multi-cylinder engine, the exhaust header having a plurality of exhaust pipes, each exhaust pipe being configured to collect exhaust gas from a cylinder of the multi-cylinder engine, the method comprising:

providing an exhaust header having a plurality of flanges, each flange having bolt holes for directly connecting the flanges to the multi-cylinder engine, and a recessed sealing surface, wherein the recessed sealing surface circumscribes an exhaust port from the cylinder;

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placing a graphite gasket against each sealing surface in the plurality of flanges;
abutting each graphite gasket against a substantially flat surface of the multi-cylinder engine; and

individually compressing each graphite gasket against the substantially flat surface of the multi-cylinder engine so as to form a plurality of separate seals between the plurality of flanges and the substantially flat surface.